Dearest Mrs Weston

Acknowledge as I deserve your
precious letter of Dec. 16.! I could cover
ream of paper with responses to the chords
touched & the vistas it opened, it made me
yearn for a few hours of your personal
presence so badly that like you I hood-
bruish the image & crush the wish by
main force. We have so much of individual
as well as general interest in common just
now, & I know so little of anything deeper
than surface sympathy in my meetings &
doings that I should breathe more freely if
I could have a good talk with you over
the matters where we "see eye to eye." But
alas! correspondence never was more
abundant, always overflowing by some
dozen letters my persistent vigorous
efforts to keep it down; so I dare not turn
aside from its yet more pressing demands
to luxuriate in reviewing with you the
progress of affairs. A few copies of recent
letters which a kind neighbour has made,
by circulating which
~~thereby~~ alone I can keep the wheels in
motion at the various centrals pounds
Leeds, Dublin, Edinburgh, Manchester, Lon-

George Bennett Esqr. Bedminster, Bristol. 1848.

Dear Sir

These words give you a little help on the work today but make you realize my sincere helplessness in being the sole recipient here of nearly the whole responsibility of dealing with these manifold communications. I began writing this yesterday under the impression that I had some more copies at hand to forward to you but they are on their travels & must follow. They are from Glasgow, Edinburgh & Birmingham, all heartily of the Manchester medalle. I think there is a chance of something coming out of the confusion when the disturbed elements have subsided a little, but there is a sad want of an intelligent head, sufficiently experienced to control, direct, and refer to the history of the cause as to guard against false steps. However Mr Chapman must work out his own schemes, I can only give him an occasional word of sympathy & an assurance that the co-operation of the true hearted will not be wanting to any practicable & judicious project they may form. Mr Nichol speaks of having heard from Mr Chapman as I suppose you know her views, I begged her to forward to you their Secretary's undeniable address to Mr Chapman with whom I am at one in mind about the whole matter. Only one expression [illegible] does somewhat dis-

perfectly? None of us have any faith
in Brack to do any thing more
than they are forced to do to save ap-
pearances, but the Chancellor will
[illegible] money & dinner or does his
Committee as well as he can. Of course
he is in a false position, but the
advantageousness of his arms & his post
is not so clear to him as to us. He has
wondrous faith in his own power of
moulding things to the right form by
diplomatic policy; & tho we have clearly
opened him he is mistaken. He is more
likely to find it out if the prophecy is
not confounded. Throw away all his faith.
He cannot write without saying first what
I think. Those neglected him for a long
while. I shall reserve my execration how-
ever. It can keep down effectively. I
should like very much to have you do
write to me on these things again with
[illegible] to send him an extract from your
letter where you say you would like him to
[illegible] how you feel, but I won't write
till there has been time to hear from you
in case your object. Please to tell her
that I am with my loving thanks for her
last letter, that it has considerably per-

plexed me, seeing that I never showed any letter of hers relating to the Manchester fraternizations to any one but Mr Webb, who was nobody with whom he conversed on these affairs. All Mr Thom can have learnt of your views or Mr C's mish have been from your letter, which I showed to him with the simple remark that "our Paris friends seemed alarmed at this novel fraternizations", & I was glad they were his creating not ours. This was the whole substance & about the length of my note. I never give currency to the strong expressions we are intelligible only to the initiated; but merely call the A.S. intelligence or arguments from your communications to enlighten other people. Mrs Steinthal has copied all Mr Chapman's letter (I believe) to her husband & given us & Leeds & Edinburgh & Manchester the benefit. Mr Mazzini never comprehended so clearly before the constitution & functions of the Central Committee. We want to establish a regular interchange of correspondence between the Societies who co-operate with the American Society for the sake of keeping each others up to the mark ("posted up") & to strengthen each others hands in readiness for any concerted action that may be called for. It is all the more important just now when Broad St. is being galvanized by Mr Chambers & he is leaving no stone unturned to induce foreign Societies to become auxiliaries to that lifeless unwieldy body. Now if we had but one American Agent who was not in a hurry to rush over England & Scotland & get back again in time for the annual meeting & the course of two or three months

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one really who could devote himself to looking us up & setting us on the right track in regard to your Society the "Manchester League" might become what the Anglo-American Ass^n was designed to be, or what the original A.S. League aimed to become, & the "Advocate" & the "Watchman" might unite & become its organ. But there is not a soul in the three kingdoms qualified to take the helm, for want of a little circumspection & a little good management at the outset. I fear it will crumble to pieces. It seems very strange that there is no one competent to take the executive departments into their own hands. Don't laugh at me or think me a second F. Douglass in conceit, but I do believe Miss Wigham & I are the only two people in G^t Britain who have the combined knowledge of what is wanted & faculty or means of taking steps in accordance with the demands of the occasion. (Keep this admission to yourself pray, it is one of the things I deplore most deeply, but it is from humiliation for the Cause's sake, not from feeling puffed up at the host of applications for information, suggestions &c. &c. w^ch every post brings, reminding me daily & hourly of my impotence & isolation in the work, that I speak of it.) Formerly every letter of consultation that my father or I received was mutually canvassed & the answer agreed upon & the division of labor made, & tho' I had perpetually to set aside my appointed share to help off his, in consequence of some unlooked for interruptions or inundations from unexpected quarters of different kinds of work, - yet I had the satisfaction of a partner & a guide in whatever I undertook. But now, (this is not worse than when he wrote his note to Mr^s

he cannot give his mind to any of the business matters, whether connected with the Cause, or his profession, or private concerns, or any other objects, without a brow growing giddy & feverish. He likes to hear all the letters that come, & he makes pointed remarks on their contents from wh I catch hints, but this is done. They are irreproachable, at once, & I am left to deal with them as efficiently & at the same time as inconspicuously as I best can. To discuss what I call & what answer will be most suitable to each, & to make any parade of the act of responding, is sure to perplex & trouble him. After all he awakens a painful consciousness of his own inability to take part in the work he has performed so thoroughly in past times. to see me busy about so that I have to insist (as you have often had to do while nursing your brother) in a state of cunning much more at leisure than I feel. Depicting the destitution of the Cause has led me into the personal channel where perhaps you think I shd have glanced on starting, but you see one's predominating sentiment will be uppermost, & as I have to go to Edinburgh fully to Stanway for sympathy & co-operation, & to dream of its delights as associated with you, & Boston, & Philadelphia, you must not wonder at my opening its flood-gates the moment I write you a line or two on my page. Our personal history is not a very bright one, this we have abundant cause for gratitude in my father's keeping free from any serious indisposition, & in the delightfully dry season we have had, having revived my energies & served as the bracing tonic I lacked, & enabled me to hold on the ceaseless round of daily duties (which I lost the opportunity I tried to create for breaking them). Aunt Emma I think published both to you & to our American correspondents a scheme I had in contemplation for wintering in a hydropathic establishment, & to bury my father & [illegible]

the scene of his wonted labors, & so left them
settle themselves (kaleidroscope fashion) into
some new form, instead of having to make
a distinct repetition of the process of handing
over or rejecting professional, or philanthropic,
or social claims. But the dangerous illness
of my cousin Augustin Prichard, our main
stay both in the family & in the whole medical
department of my father's responsibilities &
demands has tied us to home, & sadly changed
the scene of our future no less than our present
prospect. He has never rallied from a severe
attack of inflammation on the lungs which
came on six weeks ago, & there is too much reason
to apprehend an unfavorable issue. You will
not need a minute analysis to make you ap-
prehend all that this event entails of anxious
suspense, sympathy & presence with the house
of sickness & watching, removal of cares for patients
who really are like sheep without a shepherd,
coming as they do almost daily to my father from
distant places, & finding neither his advice nor
that of an adequate substitute to be obtained.
In commiseration for them I really overlook
our own destitution, & am quite in despair at
having no words of comfort or means of help
to offer them. It was not unusual to tell them of
my father's incompetency to minister to their
relief, while I could assure them that his nephew
was as well qualified to advise them. I only then
had a daily reminder of how much we spare
among of whom I had ever associated with our life
so long as my father was spared to me & the world.

There was too a feeling that the luxury of assisting "the Cause" & many other objects near our hearts by pecuniary aid was crippled by the ~~expected~~ suspension of this ~~double~~ two fold service to those who were in need; but still the applicants for his skill were not materially the losers, & I was every time awakened to gratitude for them & for all other dependants on my Father's ~~on him~~ that the transition was so gradual from his active usefulness to the entire cessation of his influence by his removal from this scene of action. Now we have all to wait patient, under the cloud, confident that its silver lining will not be hidden longer than is good for us. Mrs Chapman must forgive my falling back upon this old superstition. I cannot, & those I love as I think & feel. Dont let this sombre picture make you dismal; our neighbours & friends think us very animated & very well, & we pursue our course with great equanimity. If I have a lonely sensation sometimes it is only wanted a some friendly heart too far off to help it away. it really seems a wanton cruelty to burden you with it. Only I think you prefer seeing into us, to having a surface statement merely. Please not to condemn me personally (at least not in the midst of other things) when you write, for I like reading your letters straight on to my Father, instead of skipping & I shd not like him to think I had sent a private mail to Paris, he wd fancy me exaggerating, or that he was becoming a tax on me. Say anything you like in a separate post-script, or leave all your love undone for I enjoy the full consciousness of it. It was my endeavour to make you apprehend for the Cause's sake my A. S. loneliness that brought all the rest in its train. You shall hear again soon, for my Father has long been talking of answering Emma's announcement like he cannot write many sentences at a time & does not get